(SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Several issues of international and mutual bilateral interest, including co-operation with South Africa in the field of low cost housing, small scale industries, public health and primary and secondary education were discussed. The following three agreements were also signed during the visit:—

(i) Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations and Cooperation with the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa.

(ii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa on the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission for Political, Trade Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

(iii) Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of Republic of India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa.

Setting up nuclear Monitoring facility by the US in Pakistan

421. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal of the US Government to set up a nuclear monitoring facility in Pakistan to monitor nuclear testing activities in the region; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto, stating the implications involved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is aware that the US Government is providing assistance Pakistan to establish a seismic monitoring facility which would enable monitoring of seismic events, including, nuclear explosions in the region.

(b) The seismic monitoring facility is being set up as part of an international seismic network will be used to verify a future Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), currently being negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament at Genava. According to the US Government, the monitoring facility will enable Pakistan to participate in the GSETT-3 (Group of Scientific Express Test 30) nuclear monitoring experiment called for by the United Nations Conference on Disarmament at Geneva in which several other countries, including India, are also participating.

Indo-Nepal treaty of friendship

422. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Nepal have asked Government of India for certain changes in 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Friendship;

(b) if so, what changes in the treaty have been suggested by the Government of Nepal; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) (a) to (c) During the visit to India of the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal. Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, February 6-10, 1995 the Government of Nepal expressed on interest in discussing the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal with the Government of India. The Government of India had responded that they are willing to discuss all aspects of India-Nepal relations, including the institutional arrangements linking our two countries, with the Government of Nepal.